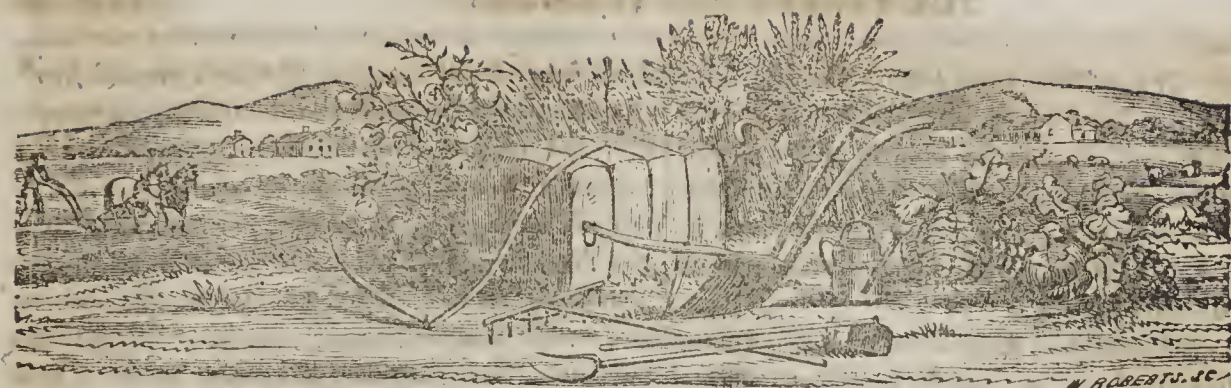


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# THE FARMER AND PLANTER.

Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Domestic and Rural Economy.

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## Address

OF R. F. W. ALSTON, ON SEA COAST CROPS.

(Continued from Page 52.)

OF RICE—(*Oryza Sativa*.)\*

Rice, for which we are indebted to the Island of Madagascar, was introduced into Carolina and America at once, towards the close of the seventeenth century. A few grains were sown in the garden of Landgrave Smith, the site of which is now entirely covered by houses and modern improvements, in the City of Charleston. Those few grains produced many ears, which being disseminated for seed, succeeded in adaptation to the climate; and the low country of South Carolina since, has become the centre of the rice-growing region. The first seed was white, such as is grown in China and Guiana to this day, and such as may still be seen produced on the uplands and inlands of America,

Sometime before the Revolutionary war, the "gold seed" Rice was introduced,† which, owing to its superiority, soon entirely superseded the white. It is now the rice of commerce, and the only grain referred to herein, when rice is mentioned, without being distinguished by some peculiar name, or characteristic.

This "gold seed" has undergone improvement in latter years. Hence has resulted the production of a variety longer in the grain, but not perceptibly larger otherwise, which is highly esteemed by foreign consumers, when it is produced, commanding the highest prices in

\*See Appendix B. for a notice of the wild Rice of Minnesota.

†From what precise quarter, and how, has not been accurately ascertained.



market. It is called "long grain" Rice.\*

The white Rice of the present day measures three-eighths of an inch in length, the same in circumference around its shorter axis the grain being in shape an irregular ellipsoid, and in weight numbers nine hundred and sixty grains to the ounce (Troy.)

The gold seed, the Rice of commerce, measures three-eighths of an inch in length, the same in circumference, and in weight numbers eight hundred and ninety-six grains to the ounce.

The long grain Rice measures five-twelfths of an inch in length, three-eighths of an inch in circumference, and in weight numbers eight hundred and forty grains to the ounce.

The system of culture for one is suitable for any of these varieties. The first, it is said, will bear upland culture better. The last (long grain) it is supposed, will bear water better. It does not tiller as much, shoots up a taller stock, and longer head, but does not bear as many grains to the head as the other, and more commonly approved kind of gold seed.

We begin the preparation for a new crop by (cleaning out the ditches every third year; the drains are cleaned out every year, after plowing) plowing the land as soon after the harvest as the fields can be gleaned, and the scattered rice, left on the surface, be sprouted. The stubble is turned under by running a deep furrow, say eight inches.† This may be continued

\*This peculiar grain, so eagerly sought out in the market at any price, when strictly prime, and so trying to the planters' skill, perseverance and judgment to produce in perfection, was obtained from the sowing of part of a single head on the plantation of the late Hon. Joshua Jno. Ward, of Waccamaw. Its appearance has only been accounted for thus: one of his friends, a planter on the Pee Dee, having a large body of forest land, had been in the habit of clearing a small portion every year or two since the year 1828. He spared no pains, nor expense, in getting the best seed to sow in this clearing; and for ten or twelve years after, the best seed of the last product, specially culled, was with diligent care selected for the newest field.

The result of this judicious and consistent attention, was the appearance in market of Seed Rice, which became notorious for its purity and soundness.

Some years ago Col. Ward supplied his plantation with the seed of this Pee Dee plant. The winter after, while threshing out the crop produced from it, his overseer, Mr. Thompson, called his attention to a few grains of uncommon length, being a fraction of a broken head, which he picked up in the barn yard. Directing it to be carefully preserved, he had it sown in the spring, and nursed under the immediate inspection of the overseer. From these few grains, reproduced and replanted, year by year, and preserved through the many difficulties and disasters of several years, is derived the fancy "long grain" Rice. For Col. Ward's letter on its origin, see "Proceedings of the State Agricultural Society." Report on Rice, 1843. pp. 55-6.

†Both plowing and harrowing are performed, ordi-

until the end of January. The sods should have the benefit of the entire winter frosts, if possible, the influence of which disintegrates and prepares them duly for the leveling.

In March, or when about preparing to plant, the harrows will be made to pass over the plowed ground.\* The hoe follows to cut up and break the remaining clods and level the surface. The more the soil is comminuted, and the surface brought to a common level, the better. The trenchers then come in with hoes made for the purpose, and trace out with great accuracy, the drills in which to sow the seed fourteen, thirteen or twelve inches apart from center to center. They will average (some drawing stake-rows, and others filling up the pannels) three quarters of an acre to the hand, in day's work.\*

The field now in high tilth, and resembling somewhat a garden spot, is ready for the seed. The sowers, with great care, yet with wonderful facility and precision, string the seed in the drills, putting two and a half, or two and a quarter bushels to the acre. The labor of sowing depends so much upon the state of the weather, whether windy, or moist, or otherwise, it is better not to require any given task. Generally, each woman will accomplish two to three tasks† and do it well—it should never be done otherwise; for the seed cannot be recovered if too thick, nor if too thin, can the sowing be repeated without needless waste and increased irregularity.

The best hands are chosen to sow Rice. In fine April weather it is pleasing to behold the steady, graceful progress of a good sower. The sowing done, water is forthwith admitted, (two tides are better than one,) and the field remains covered until the sprout becomes green and begins to fork. The water must then be withdrawn, else the plants will be forced to the surface, by any slight agitation, and float away from their position.

narily, by oxen—two yoke being required if we go deeper than six to eight inches; and two yoke get on badly in the swamp. The Tuscany breed furnishes the best oxen for our climate.

\*When the land is new, the trench should be broad, say five inches, and the rice may be scattered in the trench; but for old land, and most of rice-land is now old, narrow trenching hoes are preferred, opening a drill three inches wide. Infected with grass-seed and volunteer rice, old land requires close hoing, and every seed that vegetates outside the drill is cut up and destroyed.

†The task in the Rice region of S. Carolina is (150 × 150 feet) a half acre. This is the unit of land measurement among the negroes, and with practical planters. The acre, which is a rectangle (300 × 150 feet) made by two square half acres, contains 45,000 square feet.



In twenty days after, or thereabouts, the Rice is hoed and flowed deep, the water over-topping the plant for two or three days, in order to destroy the young grass just springing up among the plants, and also the insects that may have lodged upon the blades, or which may have been generated among the stumps, or roots, or stubble. At the end of two or three days the water is slacked down to about half the height of the plant, now somewhat stretched. At this depth it is held until the plants grow strong enough to stand erect, and will admit the laborers to walk between the trenches and pull out the long grass which shows itself, and which will now yield to very slight effort. If any rushes appear they will now be plucked up by the root and borne out to the banks.

Two days after this weeding, the long water will gradually be drawn off. A succeeding tide will be taken in and let off immediately, in order to wash out the ditches. Two men, furnished, each with a long-handled rake of curved iron teeth, are put to rake from the ditches all the water-growth which impedes the draining, placing it on the side of the bank. In eight days (the land by that time should be dry) the smaller hoes\* are used, and the soil is stirred as deep as it can be with them. The plant just recovering from the effects of long water, and taking a dry growth, is putting forth new green blades and fresh roots, which, not long enough yet to be interfered with by the deep hoeing, very soon yield to the grateful influence of the air admitted, shoot vigorously into the loosened earth, and nourish a "good stalk."

In the course of fifteen or eighteen days, the field is hoed again and weeded. This last hoeing is also done with the small hoes, but very lightly, to avoid disturbing the roots which are now extended nearly midway between the trenches.

As the plant is now beginning to joint, the laborers will step about with care, for if one be broken at the joint it cannot be restored. A day or two after this third hoeing, the water is put on again, as deep as the last long-flow, and is gradually increased in depth after the rice-heads have fairly shot out.

This is called the "lay-by" flow.† Up to the time of this flow, is about ninety days for Rice

\*The hoe now used has been reduced, latterly, to four inches in breadth.

†Some planters have this flow very shallow, insisting that a deep flow breeds worms to the injury of the plant before it has shot out, in which case the only remedy is to dry

sown the first week in April. After this, to the period of maturity is from sixty to seventy days, during which the water is often changed, and kept fresh, but is never entirely withdrawn, until the grain be ripe for the harvest. Meantime, should any grass have escaped the previous hoings and weedings, it will show its crest before the Rice matures, and be plucked up by the roots. All white Rice will be stripped off by hand.

#### HARVEST.

And now the grain is ripe for the sickle. The time for harvest is come. Gladsome, bounteous harvest! A season, it is true, of laborious exertion, but a season also of cheerful emulation, of rustic, joyous festivity. The Rice is cut a day before you will say it is full ripe.\* The water is drawn off over night. Soon after the rising of a bright autumn sun, the reapers are seen amid the thick hanging grain, shoulder-high, mowing it down with the old-fashioned sickle, dealing brisk and dexterous, but noiseless strokes. Before the dew is all gone, the Rice is laid prostrate, even and orderly, across the porous stubble.

The next day, when quite dry of dew, it is tied up in sheaves, and borne away to the threshing yard, where it is well stacked before the night dew falls heavy. This last heavy but gleeful labor completes the field-culture of the Rice plant.

When the stack has undergone its curing heat, and become cool again, the Rice is threshed out by one of Emmons' Patent Machines, and sent to the pounding mill to be cleaned. The mill performs ingeniously enough the finishing process, thus: By steam power, the rough-rice is taken out of the vessel which freights it, up to the attic of the building—thence through the sand-screen to a pair of (five feet wide) heavy stones, which grind off the husk—thence into large wooden mortars, in which it is pounded by large iron-shod pestles, (weighing 250 to 350 pounds,) for the space of some two hours, more or less.

The Rice, now pounded, is once more elevated into the attic, whence it descends through a rolling-screen, to separate whole grains from the broken, and flour from both; and also through wind-fans, to a vertical brushing screen, revolving rapidly, which polishes the flinty grain, and delivers it fully prepared, into the barrel or tierce, which is to convey it to market.†

\*For Rice sown the 1st of April the harvest begins usually from the 1st to the 10th of September.

†For information on Mills and Milling, see Allston's



The barrel is made by coopers attached to the mill, each one dresses his stuff and makes three barrels a day. He is paid twenty-five cents for each barrel made over his number. When the stuff is dressed previously, five barrels, and even more may be made.

The profits of a Rice plantation of good size and locality, are about eight per cent. per annum, independent of the privileges and perquisites of the plantation residence. Privileges and perquisites, which are neglected or undervalued by absentee proprietors, if not absolutely thrown away.

Memoir on Rice. Also Appendix to the same, D. E. F. Also, Report to Winyah and All Saints Agricultural Society, April, 1848.

For other particulars and experiments in the culture of Rice, see sundry reports on the subject to the Patent Office Commissioner. Also, to the State Agricultural Society; Vol of Proceedings, pp. 55, 58.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

From the Farmers' Register.

#### Rotation of Crops.

Much has been said and written on this subject, and not without cause; for of all the matters which necessarily engage the mind of the reflecting farmer, it would be difficult to suggest one more important. Besides the editor himself, many successful farmers and able writers have expressed their views in full on this subject, throughout the whole series of the Farmers' Register; for example, Messrs. Carter, Selden, Wickham, Harrison, Roy, Tabb, Braxton, and many others, whose names have only to be mentioned at once to arrest attention and give weight to the views advanced by them respectively. These gentlemen live, nearly all of them, in grain-growing districts of old Virginia, are good agriculturists, by which I mean that they not only make good crops, but also yearly improve their lands, and yet they advocate different systems of rotation of crops, varying in the number of years through which the rotation passes from two to six. Nay more, the same gentleman, has at different times on the same land advocated different systems—and still been successful. How is this? Does it prove that rotation is a matter of no importance? Not at all. It only proves that different soils and different situations require different systems—that it would be the height of folly to make all soils and all crops bend to one uniform system—and that even under a bad system, good management and good cultivation may and will produce satisfactory results. Let it be remembered however that the converse of this position is not always true. A good sys-

tem will not always counterbalance bad cultivation and bad management. While having an eye, and a close one too, to the most important, let not the farmer neglect the many smaller matters, which in the aggregate may not the less affect immediate results.

If so much has been written and ably written too, what need of more? perhaps the reader will ask. I readily answer, because the subject is important, and every *fact*, however apparently trifling, drawn from experience, connected with it, is important, and one or two facts I wish to communicate, besides wishing to draw information and advice from others.

In determining on every system of rotation, a few important points must be looked to. Is the principal business of the farm the raising of stock or growing of grain? If the latter, is the land best adapted to the growth of wheat or corn? Is the farm level or hilly? Does the farmer enjoy great facility of getting his products to market, or the reverse? And several other leading matters which will suggest themselves.

It is not my object to discuss at this time the best rotation for every possible variety of soil and circumstance, but to call attention to that which I consider best adapted to a grain-growing farm, situated on tide water, adapted better to the growth of corn, but capable of producing very good clover and wheat.

Such generally is my farm, but it is necessary to state that it is very rolling, and that there are 60 acres of land very stiff and totally unfit for producing corn. In fixing on my rotation, I set apart these 60 acres to be divided into two fields to be fallowed alternately for wheat, and to be kept in wheat and clover as long as they remain clear of blue-grass and other pests. The remainder of my farm I could not so readily determine on. When I received it, it had been cultivated for some years on the four-shift system of Arator, fallowing however to a very small extent each year. The portion of the field not fallowed, by lying out so long, became excessively foul with sassafras, locust, wire-grass, and innumerable pests of the vegetable kingdom, so that preparing it for the next corn crop was an Herculean task. I soon found that would not do; that most of my yearly labor was expended in conquering a growth of pests only to be again repeated when the land came again into cultivation. But what to do? There was the rub. I knew that my land, with my indifferent management and limited means of manuring, could never stand the scouring sys-



tem pursued with such eminent success on the fine wheat soils of Westover and Shirley; and under the superior management of Messrs. Selden and Carter. I could not adopt the three-field rotation of corn, wheat and clover; because my land was so hilly, that a hoc crop every third year would soon cover it with washes and gullies. Besides, I was fully convinced of the great improvement to be derived from summer-fallowing, the importance of having some work of this kind for the horses to do at this otherwise idle season, and the great advantage of having one field ready when the 10th of October (my seed-time) came. I confess that having, as I mentioned above, 30 acres to fallow each year, I was about this time much tempted to yield to the arguments of Mr. Harrison, Mr. Tabb and Mr. Roy, to whose interesting communication I would refer the reader, but was prevented by the hilliness and rolling nature of my land. I have no sort of doubt that the system which they so ably recommended is the one best adapted to most of lower Virginia, which is generally level and better fitted for corn than for wheat culture. The consideration that corn is a very certain, and wheat a very uncertain crop, deservedly had much weight.

Being driven from the three and also from the four-field rotation, I next very naturally turned my attention to a five-field system. I was the more reconciled to this, because about this time I heard that Mr. Harrison was thinking of abandoning his favorite three-field for the four-field system, and that Messrs. Selden and Carter were meditating a change from their boasted four-field rotation to one of five fields. These gentlemen are our Cokes and Blackstones, in matter of agriculture, on lower James river and I must be excused for adducing them as *authority* so often.

A five-field system was then the thing. The best arrangement for five fields of which I had heard was that pursued successfully by Mr. Wickham, viz: corn, wheat, clover, wheat, clover. But I learned from Mr. Harrison that under this arrangement my farm would become foul—one of the principal objects I had in view in abandoning my old system (Arator's four-field.) A second objection was that the clover, on the authority of Mr. Selden, would most likely fail after the fallow crop of wheat. A third and very serious one was that if the crop of clover preceding the corn was closely grazed it would be rendering the earth close and compact, which was much to be regretted for corn,

and would be bringing the three grain crops and one year of grazing all in close and rapid succession. On the other hand, not to graze would be to insure a fine crop of vegetable pests; they in turn furnishing a nest to breed, and a harbor to protect, an equal number of animal ones. I shall revert to this system; it has much to recommend it. "Rivanna," a writer in the 8th volume of the Farmers' Register, considers it the beau-ideal of a system of rotation. By the way, if his eye falls on these desultory remarks, will he inform us whether his opinion is the result of actual observation and experience, or a deduction from theoretical principles? Dr. Braxton too recommends it as highly improving after several years' experience.

At this juncture there appeared in the volume of the Register for 1839, several essays (I judged) by the editor, in which he discussed the manuring and cleansing of lands by their own growth, and the application of the principles of the rotation of crops. A suggestion there met with made me hope that I could adopt the four-field and fallow rotation, with all its great benefits, without any detriment to the land; which was, that by sowing peas broadcast amongst the corn at the time of laying it by, an excellent pea fallow might be had the same fall. Such a pea crop would not only be alternating the *kinds* of crop, but would be furnishing enriching matter to the land for its improvement. I tried it; but failed so completely on the first trial that I was never after induced to repeat it. Yet such practice is highly recommended, and Mr. Braxton, in his valuable article on rotation, in vol. viii., if I mistake not, says that he has practised sowing peas in this way, and with success. I also tried sowing buckwheat in the same way, but with no better result. All would not do. To the five-field rotation I was driven. Having thus unconditionally made up my mind to adopt five fields, I was anxious to adopt the plan most improving, and which also would yield most immediate profit. I adopted a system suggested in one of the above mentioned essays, viz:

First year, corn.

Second do. peas, fallowed in fall for wheat.

Third do. wheat.

Fourth, do. clover.

Fifth do. wheat.

And wishing to derive every benefit, I also adopted the recommendation of sowing the corn field in rye in the fall; the rye to be turned under next spring while in flower for peas



I did not derive the slightest benefit from the rye. If the month of May happened to be dry, I found it very laborious plowing the land in rye, even when other land did not appear very hard; and I soon became convinced that if any benefit did accrue to the land from the rye, it was not sufficient to remunerate me for expense of seed and plowing. I have since seen, in one of Mr. Carter's papers, that he came to the same conclusion with regard to oats turned in for improvement, from an experiment actually made. I also substituted, when ill-supplied with seed-peas, buckwheat for the peas. But I never found any benefit from it. Nor ought it to have been expected. Both rye and buckwheat are narrow-leaved, fibrous-rooted, grain-producing plants, and no doubt must draw nearly as much from, as they can return to, the earth.

My rotation now stands—1st year corn, 2d peas, 3d wheat, 4th clover partially grazed, (late,) 5th wheat. About half of the corn land is put in oats and sown in clover, leaving only half for peas and wheat. That put in oats of course remains two years in clover, and, with the help of a standing pasture, supports the stock, till time to glean the wheat fields, both of which are grazed moderately. In fact I have come to the conclusion, that light or corn land, like mine, to improve *progressively*, must be grazed. There might be faster improvement, for a short time, without the hoof, but it would sooner cease to progress.

To my present plan there are strong objections, which I will briefly enumerate. 1st, the expense and labor of the additional plowing for peas, when compared with the sowing of clover in the five-field rotation of Mr. Wickham. 2d, clover is not apt to succeed very well after the wheat on the pea fallow. Whether the peas render the land too porous, or whether the rank growth of wheat which succeeds a rank growth of peas smothers the clover, I am unable to say. A third objection is, that the old field, being followed two years by clover, becomes very foul. And two years in clover are necessary to bring that portion into rotation with the other half of the field reserved for wheat. I select for the oats the most rolling portion of the corn field, which is thereby subjected to one plowing less in the rotation than the remainder of the field, and if it becomes more foul, my idea was that it would be less apt to wash; and of the two, foulness or gullies, I greatly preferred the former. But even in this I have been disappointed, for by this ar-

rangement, it will at once be seen that the land intended for oats lies throughout the winter without any vegetable cover, and of course in the worst state for the action of the rains. I believe that if I adopted the five-field system, marked below No. II, and followed the corn by wheat on all the rolling parts and by oats in all the level parts, the whole to be sown in clover and fallowed the following fall twelve months, that it would not only be better, for guarding against washing, but also it would be a more cleansing system, so far at any rate as the oat land is concerned.

I confess that I am now wavering between the two systems and have not yet come to a final determination. If any brother farmer can aid me in my quandary he will receive my warmest thanks. I cannot do with less than five fields; and the question is shall I adhere to my present five field and (pea and clover) fallow rotation, or shall I adopt Mr. Wickman's system of five-fields, two of which are in clover. To compare them better I will place them in juxtaposition.

<i>I. Pea and clover fields.</i>		<i>II. Two clover fields.</i>	
1st year corn.		1. corn.	
2d " half in peas, and		2. half in wheat and	
half in oats.		half in oats.	
3d " half in wheat and		3. clover.	
half in clover.		4. wheat.	
4th " clover.		5. clover grazed.	
5th " wheat.			

I think both capital rotations, as free from objections as any rotation contain in 5 years or less time can be, but they still have their objections, some of which I have stated above with regard to each one. Here I would only ask a single question. Would as much wheat be made on the 2d as on the 1st plan? A reduction of the profits of each to figures I am unable to give, never having tried one of them.

I am aware of a third scheme of a five-field rotation recommended and adopted by Mr. Carter. But in my humble judgment it is inferior to either of the above; and in this opinion I am supported by Mr. Braxton, and by a writer over the signature of R. in vol. viii.

In the above remarks, I have frequently called to my aid the authority of many of your ablest correspondents, and in doing so it is hoped that the opinions of none have been misrepresented. If otherwise, I hope to be set right; and cannot conclude without remarking that if this communication has no other merit, it has at least that of presenting in one view a long list of Virginia's noblest sons and benefactors. *Benefactor*\*



I say, for by regenerating her soil, they have done her more service, than the whole host of politicians for the last forty years. N.

February, 1842.

For the Farmer and Planter.

**Notes on Experiments with "Mape's Prepared Super Phosphate of Lime," in 1854.**

**GARDEN CROPS.**

**EXPERIMENT No. 1.—ON PEAS.—Varieties:** Landreth's Extra Early and Polific double Blossom. Soil poor, with considerable vegetable matter in it. Effect, decidedly marked in vigorous growth of vine, and abundant yield of fruit. Seasons, rains frequent until maturity of the crop.

**EXPERIMENT No. 2.—ON LETTUCE.—Variety,** Globe. Soil rich, having received dressings of hen-house manure, the effect of the Super Phosphate, however, was marked in pushing the heads to early maturity, and made them large and tender.

**EXPERIMENT No. 3.—ON BEETS.—Soil** good, well and deeply forked and manured with ashes, hog hair and yard scrapings. Effects marked beets large, growth vigorous, maturity rapid.

**EXPERIMENT No. 4.—BEANS.—Variety,** Bunch. Soil, stiff clay, (red) poor, manured with leached, ashes, domestic guano and charcoal. Growth remarkable at first with fine promise of fruit, but on the appearance of dry weather, they burned literally up. Yield nothing. Another experiment with Beans on a moister and mellow soil, produced same results. A third experiment with the Lima Bean, if anything, was worse, for we did not make our seed.

**EXPERIMENT No. 5.—MELONS.—A** perfect failure, vines burded up, soil rich and mellow.

**EXPERIMENT No. 6.—CABBAGES.—Soil,** poor clay, effects in the beginning marvellous, but all seemed to stop stock, still when the drought set in, they never recovered.

**EXPERIMENT No. 7.—SALSIFY.—Soil** good. Could not see any very marked benefit.

**EXPERIMENT No. 8.—POTATOES—Soil** dry, poor, red clay, manured with leached ashes, chip manure and straw in the drill. The Phosphate was applied on the surface. Upon one row a double dose was administered, and the effect was very marked. All the Phosphated row exhibited great luxuriance of vine, and gave fine promise, but when the drought set in, burned completely up. When the potatoes were housed we could see no great benefit resulting from the manure, much of which seemed still undissolved in the soil. The row double

dosed was no better than the rest. The potatoes generally, of good size, but yield small. We may as well remark here that on some rows we tried ashes, on others straw, and on others cotton seed; the rows manured with cotton seed surpassed all others.

**EXPERIMENT No. 9.—OKRA.—Soil,** poor, stiff clay, manured with chip manure and ashes. Effect very marked from the beginning. Yield of fruit tolerable good.

**FIELD CROPS.**

**SWEET POTATOES.—Soil** light, mellow and tolerably good; had been manured with cotton seed for wheat year previous. Applied 250 lbs. Super Phosphate in drill and bedded on ft. The yield of potatoes good, but no very remarkable difference in favor of the phosphate discernible.

**CORN.—Soil** poor, cold clay, 160 lbs. applied at the second plowing on two acres and covered with the peas then being dropped. The effect upon the corn was very perceptible, and upon the peas wonderful. A rain which fell soon after the application of the Phosphate acted like a charm, turning the puny yellow corn stalk into a vigorous green one, which soon put forth promise of fruit.

**COTTON.—Selected** the poorest acre in the field; soil cold, wet, clayish not adapted to cotton, applied 160 lbs. to one half, to the other nothing—cultivation identical. The difference was very marked. Never saw a more luxuriant growth than the phosphated section. At the beginning of the drought it stopped growing; yield of phosphated section 209 lbs., non-phosphated 59 lbs. Although the difference here is evidently being in favor of the Phosphate, it still cannot pay at a production of 418 lbs. cotton per acre, the phosphated costing \$10 per acre.

We will not bore the reader with exact details as regards other experiments, but simply give results. We tried it upon cold and stiff clay soils, upon light sandy soils, and upon warm, mulatto soils, at the rate of 160 to 300 lbs. per acre; upon all of which the effects were marked until the beginning of the drought, after which we could see but little improvement. The yield was evidently increased, and the maturity hastened, but unless it tells upon the successive crop, we are convinced it will not pay. A good deal has been said about rust in cultivation with Guano, Super Phosphate, Lime &c. We could see no difference. The rust appeared in the unmanured as well as manured sections of our fields, and was alike destructive to



the health of the plant. We are now trying a series of experiments upon wheat and corn.

The above notes extracted from our Farm Books, we offer to you, Mr. Editor, "*pro bono publico*," and hope that the readers of the Farmer and Planter being "forewarned may be forearmed."

The chicken fever has died out—the fancy manure fever is just beginning to develop a magnificent type. Beware.

BROOMSEDGE.

#### Ashes in Agriculture.

Wood ashes is one of the most important fertilizers. It is easily obtained in any quantity at little or no expense. Take them carefully from your hearths and save them until your corn and potatoes have risen two or three inches from the ground, then take a basket on your arm and from it take a small handful of ashes and cast it at the root of your plants and hoe them soon, so as to cover the ashes. By this means you will increase your crop one-half.

Ashes contain all the inorganic substances of the wood or plants which are consumed, part of these are soluble and part-insoluble. But the soluble substances mixed with water will dissolve the insoluble. Thus, dissolved potash will dissolve silica and prepare it for glazing the stalks of cane, corn, wheat, &c.

Not a particle of ashes should go to waste. Leached ashes has parted with most of its potash, but it still retains its phosphoric acid and most of its lime.

Ashes neutralizes acids in the soil, they warm cold, mossy, wet places, they are very destructive to insects, they assist to break down and dissolve the coarse fibres and stalks in compost heaps, render hard, clayey soils open, loamy and fertile.

The potash, so material to most crops, can be obtained here, only from ashes. In granite regions, potash is obtained from the dissolution of the field spar, but we have none in this region of country.

Wheat contains a large proportion of potash. Fifty-nine per cent. of the ashes of corn is carbonate of potash, and one-half of the earthy part of Irish potatoes is pure potash.

Save your ashes, therefore, as carefully as you do your five and ten cent peices, apply them to your crops with care and you will find them of a rich deep green color while growing and heavy with nutriment at harvest.—*Ancient City*.

Colts must have a great deal of exercise.

#### Reports of Committees.

*To the Agricultural Association of Laurens District, at its Annual Meeting, held at Laurens C. H., on the 27th Sept., 1854.*

#### THE PROPER EDUCATION OF THE FARMER.

Your committee, to whom was assigned the duty of reporting upon the "Proper education of the Farmer," beg leave through their Chairman to submit the following as the amount of their labors in discharging that duty, upon that important subject.

Your committee deem it necessary—in order to make the subject intelligent to all—to go out of the record a little, and inquire, first, if it is necessary to educate the Farmer at all? Up to within a few years of time, it has been the prevalent opinion, that a farmer need not be educated, or at best, he could do very well if he could read a paragraph without spelling more than half the words, write a line in his day book without misspelling more than half, and understood sufficient of arithmetic to make two and two count *five*—the last to be his principle source of profit.

It has been the policy of the world to educate their sons for every pursuit in life but for farming; but was there a block-head among them, or one that was supposed to be such, why they turned him out to *grass* and among the piney old fields, and sand covered bottoms, he must "root little pig or die;" but your committee experience some degree of pleasure in stating, that a better day is not only coming, but that such a day has actually dawned upon us of 1854, and, further, we believe that the full meridian blaze of day will ere long burst upon us, its genial warmth giving new life and new vigor to agriculture.

Your committee would seriously inquire the reason of the worn out fields, the broomsedge acres, that are so extensively spread out in our own beautiful Carolina? Why are our sons scattered far and near over the great West? Why do you get but one, two or three barrels of corn to the acre of what you do plant? Or more significantly, why do you get but one small bale of cotton to the acre? Why does South Carolina pay her tens of thousands, aye, her hundreds of thousands, annually to Tennessee, Kentucky and other States for horses, mules, pork and flour? All these questions, with many more, may be answered in a few words—the want of a proper education for the farmer. Your committee assume then that it is not only necessary to educate the farmer, but to educate him properly, and this brings us to the original question, what would be the proper education of the farmer?

In answering this question, your committee are fully aware that they will come in contact with many long established usages, much prejudice and a great deal of unnecessary ignorance, but all this, or even a greater array of opposition, will not deter them from stepping boldly into ranks of pioneer reformers, and proclaim to this assemblage at least, what they conceive to be the truth, and what they believe to be the true policy in the education of this long neglected class—the farmer.



Until the son has procured a thorough English education, the parent or guardian should not select an occupation for him, but during the years thus employed, he should watch closely the bent or inclination of his mind, that he may know for what pursuit in life the son is best adapted to, physically as well as mentally, before he goes to his academic or college studies, then let those studies be pursued which will fit him for the occupation selected. As to his physical qualifications, it is not necessary that you should select that great over-grown, double-fisted son for the farmer, for he or any one else will need all the power that falls to the lot of man to succeed in any of the professions; and, perhaps, if that little puny delicate boy, who has always been mama's pet, could have sufficient wholesome exercise in the open air, and look oftener up on the broad blue canopy of Heaven at the early dawn, he might in a few years vie in strength and agility with any son of the family.

Neither do your committee think it necessary that all the smart boys of the family should go into the professions. Many a smart lad has been ruined as a man by making a hot bed plant of him, or of forcing him into some of the various professions, for which he was in no wise fitted, except by smartness. American parents must soon alter their course in this matter, or we must dwindle into a nation of pigmies. Your committee might dwell long here, and perhaps with profit upon the evils arising from the present mode of selecting occupations for sons, but they forbear, and pass on to the subject more immediately at issue.

The son having acquired a good English education, including Mathematics, his parents have decided that he should be a farmer, and they are able and willing to spend something more upon his education; let him then enter a school or college where he can acquire a thorough knowledge of agricultural chemistry; and let a school be selected where he not only can find the theory, but also some practice. We do not recommend manual labor schools, for they are not adapted to the South, but we would recommend such schools as have attached to them a farm, where the student can see practically before him from week to week, from month to month, and from year to year, all the advantages of the science, the theory of which he is daily acquiring, and during the vacations of his school let him spend some portion of them in putting in practice on the old homestead, something of what he has learned under the patronage of "old Ben," or "uncle Tom," which will not only interest himself, but also create a zest in the minds of the servants for better farming. Just let the servants find out that they can raise a thousand bushels of corn, or forty bags of cotton by traveling over only twenty acres of ground instead of seventy-five or a hundred, as now, and you will soon know that they will nobly second your efforts.

Perhaps we shall be told by the skeptical and unbelieving, that such schools as are recommended by your committee cannot be found. If so, we then reply that you should go to work

and establish them, for we are well inclined to the belief that a large majority of the world, or even a majority of the South, feel the necessity of such, and if the farmer will not help himself, who does he expect will help him? In his pecuniary circumstances he is more independent than any one else, consequently more able to help himself than anybody is to help him. Then let the farmer go to work, and work unceasingly for the foundation of such a structure as will best tend toward the mental and moral culture of his class.

Your committee would not be understood as recommending this course of education to be confined to those only who expect to inherit plantations from their parents or other relatives. By no means whatever. Every man who expects to commence life for himself as an overseer should have a thorough knowledge of his business, and in no way can he get this without being educated for it. The practice has been too prevalent heretofore of selecting such overseers as would work for the smallest amount of money, and the result of such operations always is, that you have bartered for ignorance instead of knowledge; and you not only get an ignorant man to manage your interest, but you get one that is sadly in want of moral feeling and moral principle. There are three things that a man should never stop to count dollars and cents upon, when he has found the right material: A cow for his dairy, a teacher for his children, and an overseer for his plantation. Let any of you employ an overseer who has been properly trained for his business, and you will not only find your profits greater upon your farm, but you will find that you have better servants. The planter who wishes his servants properly managed must place a man over them that will command their respect and esteem both. Place a man over them who is grossly ignorant of everything that constitutes a good overseer, and the result is that his profits are small and his slaves become unruly, and if managed at all, it has to be done purely by brute force. The negro is an imitative being, and give him good examples as well as good teaching, and he will be very apt to follow many of them, which will tend to elevate his character as a servant, and bring in to play all the best qualities of his nature.

Your committee have avoided going into lengthy detail upon this subject, as out of place at this stage of the matter, but in conclusion they would earnestly urge it upon you, as you value the welfare of your country, as you value the peculiar institution of the South, as you value the blessings of this life, as you value the welfare of your posterity, to go to work, and work out for yourselves the position to which you are justly entitled; make yourselves an educated people, educated expressly with a view to your occupation, and then, and not till then, will the farmer take his stand in society, and among his compeers, that the God of nature intended he should occupy. And then, and not till then, will our Legislators, our civil officers, and our scientific men be drawn, to any great extent, from among the tillers of the soil. And



then, and not till then will our Southern institution shadow forth its greatest blessings, and cease, in any instance, to be a curse. And then, and not till then, will the farmer stand forth in the broad sun-light of Heaven, redeemed, regenerated, disenthralled to any extent from the original denunciation, that "in the sweat of his face should he eat bread."

Go to work then, farmers of old Laurens, redeem your worn out fields, fill up your interminable gulleys, clean off your long neglected briar patches—that this may be done properly, build up your agricultural schools, and when you have ceased from your work here upon earth, millions now unborn shall rise up and call you blessed.

"Cease to do evil and learn to do well."

Respectfully submitted.

L. P. HORT, Chin'n.

*From the Southern Farmer.*

#### Disease of Swine.

Observing in your paper of the 24 December an inquiry from Thomas R. Jones, in relation to a peculiar disease amongst his hogs, to which you profess to be unable to furnish an answer, I have determined in compliance with your request, to suggest a remedy. The same symptoms appeared amongst my own hogs this fall, and some of them ultimately died. The malady was new to me, and the first one I saw affected with it, was to all appearance fatally diseased. It was my fine sow with young pigs, to which my servant, who attends to the hogs, called my attention. She was fat, and nursing a litter of eight pigs, but perfectly prostrated and unable to use her limbs. I was so well convinced that she would die, that I directed the pigs to be taken to the house to be fed and raised upon slop. Before leaving her, my servant suggested that he had seen hogs thus affected before, and that it was owing to the stoppage of a secretion which constantly runs out of the small holes on the inside of the fore legs of the animal. I examined them, and found them closed and dry. He took a stone and rubbed both legs over the holes until there was a discharge from them of a clear, oily fluid. Supposing that she would certainly die, the pigs were removed, and about four hours afterwards, I inquired whether they had been fed. To my surprise I learned that the sow was on her feet, and feeding, and that the pigs were returned to her. She has been perfectly well ever since. The first symptoms of the disease are such as Mr. Jones describes, to wit: the loss of the use of the fore legs from the knee down. Those which are neglected, die—being unable to get food or water. The disease is not inflammatory, but seems to partake of the nature of the temporary paralysis. My hogs had been upon a pea field, and perhaps that circumstance may have rendered them liable to such a disease. I give the information which I have, believing that there should be no secrets amongst farmers. The remedy is simple and innocent. Rub the insides of the fore legs over those natural openings with a corn-cob, so as to excite them, and promote the discharge of the secretions. By the way much is lost by not observing and

treating the experience of intelligent servants, who have been long employed in the practical operations of our farms. To my hog feeder I am indebted for this piece of information, which has been of some value to me this fall, as some of my fattening hogs have been similarly affected, and by this treatment relieved.

Your friend and subscriber,

A. W. VENABLE.

N. B.—It would be highly conducive to the agricultural prosperity of the country if all our farmers should promptly communicate any knowledge, sought for in our journal which they may possess. Facts are what we want. Facts are invaluable because indispensable to profitable progress.

#### They still Continue the old Way.

The following communication with remarks by our respected friend, Dr. Cloud, the able editor of the "American Cotton Planter," is taken from the March number of that excellent exchange. Will our subscribers read and reflect on them? We have only to tender our sincere acknowledgments to the Doctor for placing us in company with such men as "Broom'sedge," "Panola," "Summer," and others. This is an honor of which the worthy editor of the American Cotton Planter is more deserving than our humble self. With all our discouragements, we hope the day will yet come in our time, that we shall have the pleasure of meeting him "at a State Fair in the lovely city of Oaks and beautiful Gardens—Columbia."—Ed. F. & P.

DR. CLOUD—Dear Sir: I enclose my subscription for 1855—say one dollar—and I must add that I feel some mortification at my negligence in not obtaining at least some subscribers, and at letting the past year glide off without saying something through your valuable journal to my agricultural brethren. But, sir, I almost despair of saying any thing that will be heeded by them—so much already from more scientific men which has passed of like water "*spilled on the ground*," I mean in South Carolina. It is still cotton! cotton!! to the neglect of other matters. I have yet only one hope left, viz: The posture of things, at present being calculated to bring my brother farmers to reflect a little on the highly deleterious course hitherto pursued.

I ask, shall we consider a moment, or shall we continue till we are irretrievably gone. Talk to them of the course hitherto pursued, and they will admit the soundness of the logic, but still continue the old plan. One of the poets, perhaps Hudibras, more beautifully expresses the idea thus:

"I know the right and approve it too,

I know the wrong and yet the wrong pursue."

Perhaps some of my brethren may ask what



is all this fault-finding about? I have done the best I could. I raise as good crops of cotton as do my neighbors. I, like them, plant my best land in cotton, and raise some four to eight bales to the hand, &c. True, I have to buy my pork, flour, and perhaps some corn, but my neighbors do the same—we all do it. Now, my brother, let me ask you if it would not be better in the end to plant less cotton—raise your own pork, and make grain in abundance? Again, I ask, what is the condition of your lands? Are they growing richer, or poorer? or how stands the account? How much forest land have you left? You have made remunerating crops of cotton—perhaps large ones; increased the number of your negroes; cut down nearly all your wood lands; but I ask you candidly, is your estate really increased? Would not your lands, if now in forest, be equal to your purchase of negroes? It may be you have kept up your lands by manuring, and your forests standing, if so, go on with your manuring. But I beg you to plant less cotton and more grain; raise your own horses, mules, and pork; keep your land in good heart; plant less, work better, and if you give it a fair trial, my word for it, you will find things go better, and in the end you will say all is right. You will be able to count more clear gain than by the old plan of cotton! cotton! Look at the condition of things now. Just contrast the condition of the two—the reformed and the common mode of doing business. Pork \$6 to \$7 per hundred; corn \$1 per bushel; flour \$10 per barrel—and cotton four to seven cents. But some brother will say there is something peculiar in this. Wars and short crops have something to do in bringing about this state of things! I frankly admit it. I have no doubt of it, but I believe it is admitted by all, that “like causes produce like effects” at all times and under all circumstances. Now, I ask, may not this occurrence of things again happen? The population of the earth is increasing and the lands are deteriorating, and one cannot always calculate on that abundant yield as in times past. I am not distrustful of our creator, for he has promised “seed to the sower and bread to the eater.”

My main object is to impress on the minds of my brethren what I think is sound, wholesome doctrine. God prosper you in your laudable undertaking. I wish your valuable journal may reach the fireside of every Southern family.

Yours, with due respect, W.

Winnsboro', S: C., Jan. 22, 1855,

My very dear “W,” despair not! there are yet ‘7000’ good and faithful planters that see right, know right, and have determined to work right—yea, and many of these in our good old native Carolina. They are not a host encamped together, but like heaven, they are located in every district throughout the planting region. Shall I point you to “Broomsedge,” “Panola,” “Summer,” “Maj. Seaborn,” &c., &c., with many other worthies of our own State? We say then despair not, rather gird up your loins, buckle on your helmet. This great work of agricultural improvement that is to make our whole country *bloom as the rose of the valley*, is to progress to a glorious consummation. Even Carolina’s revolutionary hills, from the mountain steeps to the sand beach, laved by old ocean’s waves, shall groan as it were, under the densely clustered fruits of an improved and scientific agriculture. Who, you may ask, is to accomplish this glorious work? I answer you, first, that there is but little aid to be expected from those who “simply admit the soundness of our logic.” These very clever, good natured, industrious cotton growers and *land killers*, will perhaps, turn to your next neighbor, and with a smile of contempt, ridicule your horizontal rows, your manure banks, your improved plows and subsoiling. But be not deterred at this; look you to such men as Edmund Ruffin and Daniel Lee, and a thousand others in their wake, that we might name—these men “*admit our logic*” in its practice. Such are the men to accomplish the good work. We must feel the responsibility ourselves, those of us who know so well the importance and value of the great reform in our agricultural economy. Action, action, constant action. The agricultural press is our sheet-anchor, our Archimedian lever. We must sustain it, not only pecuniarily, and by placing it in the family of every planter in the country, but with good, sound, practical communications, the details of practical experience in the proper preparation and cultivation of land; in the economy of stock raising and feeding, and, in short, in all the practices of an improved plantation economy. We must be up and doing, and we must persevere. Too many of our good friends think that one paper a year for an agricultural journal is a great deal—that may be very well—it is doing well, but stop not at that; do we not know that the victory is to be won, the reward to be gained alone “by a patient *continuance* in well doing.” We must persevere. We must strive to unite and concentrate our efforts. Whatever defects there may be in our system of Agricultural Societies, they



are certainly the best means yet devised for rural districts, thinly populated, as is the case in the planting States, for stimulating, &c., causing planters to interest themselves in agricultural improvements. It is true, that clubs in villages or cities, where planters might meet weekly or monthly, and discuss socially, the various practices and improvements in their plantation operations, would be a means of most valuable improvement. But our planters are not citizens of villages or towns, and we must therefore encourage county and State Societies, with industrial exhibitions and fairs. When shall we enjoy the pleasure of being present at a State Fair, in the lovely City of Oaks and beautiful Gardens—Columbia.—ED. AMERICAN COTTON PLANTER.

#### Explanation of Agricultural Terms.

*Trench Plowing*—is running the plow twice in the same furrow. In doing this the top soil, with all its foul weeds, cast to the bottom of the trench, a new soil is thrown up on which the sun has never before shed its rays. It is done sometimes at one operation, by a plow constructed for the purpose, called a trench plow,

*Horizontal Plowing*—is so conducted by the use of an instrument, called "ratter level," as to lay the side hills in horizontal beds, about six feet wide, with deep hollows or water furrows between, for the purpose of retaining the rains.

*Indigenous Plants*—are such as are natives of the country in which they are found or grow. Thus, maize, the potato, and tobacco, are called indigenous to America, having been found here, and from America introduced into Europe.

*Exotic Plants*—are such as are natives of foreign countries. Such as the lemon tree, and many others, when introduced into the United States, are cultivated in hot houses.

*Annual Plants*—are such as are of but one year's duration. Such as the most of our garden plants, and all others growing from seed sown in the spring, which at maturity in the summer or autumn following, producing flowers and ripe seed, and afterwards perish both in their top and roots.

*Biennial Plants*—are such as, in their roots at least, are of two year's duration. Many of these plants perish in their top the first year, but live in the root through the winter, and the second year shoot up stalks, flower, produce seed, and afterwards perish, both in root and branch. Such are the parsnip, earrot, &c.

*Perennial Plants*—are such as are of many

years' duration. Such are all plants whether the leaves and stalks perish annually or not, provided the roots are of many years' duration, as the horse radish, burdock, &c.

*Herbaceous Plants*—are those whose herb, that is, whose stem and branches are of but one year's duration whether the root be annual, biennial, or perennial.

*Esculent Plants*—are such as are replete with nutritious matter, consequently proper for being eaten as food. Such as parsnips, earrots, cabbage, and various others of a similar nature.

*Deciduous Plants*—are all such, whether of the tree or shrub kind, as shed or lose their leaves in the autumn or winter seasons.

*Tuberous Plants*—are such as consist of one or more knobbed tubes of a solid flesh substance, as the potato, artichoke, &c.

*Bulbous Roots*—are such as have a roundish, swelling, bulbous form, composed of numerous scales or coats, as the onion, garlic, &c.

*Tap Roots*—are such as in the form of a tap descend down into the ground in a perpendicular direction, as the carrot, parsnip, red clover, &c.

*Fibrous Roots*—are such as are wholly composed of numerous thready or fibrous parts, such as the roots of all kinds of grain.

*Rotation of Crops*—is a course of different crops, in succession on the same piece of ground for a certain number of years, after which the course is renewed and goes round in the same order. There is a difference between a *course of crops* and a *rotation of crops*. Thus if a piece of ground in sward be broken up and planted with Indian corn the first year, the second year with potatoes, the third year sowed with oats and grass seed: and mowed the fourth, fifth and sixth years, this makes a course in crops. If then the seventh year it again be broken up, planted as before, and the same course of cropping pursued, it becomes a *rotation of crops*.

*Soiling*—is the feeding of cattle, either in the barn or yard, through the summer, with new mown grass or roots.

*Layers*—are the tender branches of trees and shrubs bent down and buried in the earth, leaving the top out, in which situation they are fastened with hooks to prevent their rising. The part in the earth sends out roots, after which it is separated from the parent tree, and transplanted in the same manner as the tree raised from the seed.

*Cuttings or Slips*—are small portions of the twigs, branches or roots of plants, cut off with a knife, or slipped off with the thumb and fin-



ger, for the purpose of setting or planting in the earth, with a view of producing new plants or trees of the same kind.

*Sets*—are young plants taken from the seed bed to be set or planted out. Cabbage, and various plants are usually propagated in this way, being first sown in beds, from which the plants are taken up and set out in the fields or gardens.

*Fallow*—signifies land in a state of rest, not being planted or sown for a season, but repeatedly plowed and harrowed, for the purpose of clearing it of weeds and dividing and pulverizing the soil more perfectly. Such is sometimes called a *naked fallow*, because the land carries no crop.

A *Green Fallow*—is that where the land has been rendered mellow and clean from weeds, by means of some kind of *green crops*, such as turnips, peas, potatoes, &c., cultivated by the horse plow and hoe. The crop so cultivated and for the above purpose, is called a fallow crop. In this mode of fallowing, no time is lost by the land being left idle or in an unproductive state. Fallowing is sometimes distinguished by the season of the year in which the business is either principally or wholly accomplished; hence we have summer, winter and spring fallow.

*Winter fallow*—is only breaking up the land, or plowing in the fall, and leaving it exposed to the action of the frosts of the winter.

*Dibble*—is a tool of very simple construction, for making holes in the ground at equal distances, in which certain seeds are sometimes planted. Seeds planted in this way are said to be dibbled in. It is used also in transplanting. The handle of an old spade or shovel, sharpened at the lower end, may answer very well for this purpose.

#### Sainfoin.

The fact that the government of the United States has recently imported, and through the agency of the Commissioner of Patents distributed a large quantity of sainfoin seed has led farmers to inquire concerning its nature and its value. We give the following information on the subject, which we gather from various sources.

The Encyclopedia of Agriculture says, it is a native of England and many parts of Europe. It has been especially cultivated in France, where it received its name—*sainfoin* or sacred grass. "The stems are from 2 to 3 feet in length; leaves pinnate and nearly smooth, flower stalks axillary, ascending, longer than the leaves, each bearing a tapering spike of handsome variegated flowers." The fruit is a legume, erect, single seeded, toothed at the margin

and ribs. It is a deep-rooting perennial. In some English agricultural work, it is declared to be "one of the most valuable herbage plants we owe to the bounty of Providence." It is abundant in yield, and will flourish on poor soil and is better adapted to calcareous and dry soils, than others. Many sections of England are too rich for its production. The chalky of Surrey, and the Cotswold hills are the most productive of this plant.

The earlier in the season it is sown, the better, if the ground is in proper condition. It is more likely to germinate if sown before the ground is dry. In France it is put into the ground in February and March. In this climate, May, or the first of June would not be considered too late. The most common method is to scatter it broadcast, from three to four bushels to the acre. It is usual to sow it with barley or wheat, though we suppose it would do well sown with oats. The seed being large should be covered deeply.

Some European farmers mow a crop the first year, though it is not usually practiced. The second year a heavy harvest is gathered either for the soiling of the cattle, or for hay. In making it into hay, care should be exercised to cut it as soon as it comes into blossom, and as much expedition as possible should be employed in curing it. It may be gathered into barns even when it appears to be quite fresh and green. An English writer remarks, that it requires the least pains in making of any plant.

A field of calcareous soil, will retain its growth of Sainfoin for eight or ten years, yielding from one to two tons to the acre, and afford an abundant after math or "second crop." The nutritive value of the crop is about the same as clover.—*Granite Farmer.*

From the Southern Cultivator.

#### Ditching low, wet Bottom Lands.

LETTER FROM GRANT.

MESSRS. EDITORS—I see in the June [1854] number of the *Southern Cultivator* a letter from Mr. John Farrar, of Atlanta, Ga., recommending the bringing into cultivation creek bottoms and branch lands, which I am attempting to do, and not having been accustomed to doing such work it would be of great advantage if I could, through your valuable paper or by letter from the gentleman himself, get his views in full on the subject of ditching and draining low or bottom lands. As he remarked in his letter he could write a good deal more, I would be glad to have a full detail on the subject of draining bottom land. Yours respectfully,

W. N. GRANT.

Jasper Co., Texas, 1854.

MESSRS. EDITORS—The letter of Mr. Grant, of Texas, to you, requesting information on the subject of ditching creek and branch bottoms is received. I suppose you forwarded his request to me, mainly on account of his making mention of me and of my letter in the June number of the *Cultivator*. Could I give Mr. Grant such information as he desires it would afford me



pleasure. To give general instructions on this subject would be an easy matter in some men's hands—such as have ideas and words suited to express their theory and practice in such matters. I consider myself but little favored with such gifts. I will, in the first place, say to Mr. Grant that by close observation and a little practice he will be better informed on this subject than he will be by any instructions I can give him in writing. If I were on his lands and could take a survey of his bottoms, I could give him more information and advance ideas that he would better understand in one hour than I can by a half dozen written communications. The most important consideration on the subject of ditching is, first, a proper location; next, a proper width and depth for each ditch, always having an eye to the quantity of water that may be expected at any time. In nine cases out of ten it is the surest plan to run the main ditch in the lowest part of the bottom. In many bottoms there will be springy wet places after the main ditch is made. In such cases there must be drain ditches made, running into the main one, and these should be made what is called blind ditches. This is done by cutting them of sufficient depth, say one and a half to two feet wide. The cheapest and quickest plan for making the drain where poles can be had plenty, is to get them of proper size, place one on each side on the bottom of the ditch and place the third pole on top of those two; if the poles be of the right size there will be cavity or space sufficient to drain all the water that will come into the ditch. This being done, take small brush, &c., put it on the poles, chop it so as to make it lie close, then fill up the ditch with the dirt that was taken out, and you have a blind ditch; the land can then be cultivated as well as if the ditches were not there.

It requires a great deal of ditching to dry some spots of land so as to make them productive. I have known 400 yards of blind ditch on a half acre before it could be thoroughly drained; but this is running an expense for improvement higher than is advisable in most cases. In many bottoms after the main ditch is made on the lowest part there must be a ditch made on each side at the lower edge of the hill to keep the hill side water from the bottom; and for another purpose, they cut off the drainings of springy, wet places which are frequently found at the edge of hills. The word is, when a man undertakes to reclaim bottom land and put it in a profitable state of cultivation, he must not stop before he puts in as many ditches as may be required; he then may, with some propriety, expect to be rewarded for his labor. The size of a ditch depends not a little on the fall it may have—a ditch where there can be but little obtained must be wider in proportion to the less fall it may have. Where there is considerable fall for a ditch there need be no great concern how it is made, if it be straight; for if the roots and other obstructions be kept cleaned out of the way it will not be a great while before it will be as large as the owner will wish it. In laying out a location for a ditch it should be as

straight as circumstances will admit—avoid sudden curves or crooks.

To give an idea of the size of a ditch, I have one now in progress 8 feet wide and wish to get it near 4 feet deep, if the fall will admit of that much. The surplus rain water that falls on some 200 acres of land, and but little broken, will have to pass off by this ditch. I am one that does not hire Irishmen or any other hands to ditch. Any fellow that can use a hoe or an axe can be learned to ditch in a few hours. First stick stakes in a line for the ditch, then a line 15 or 20 yards long with a peg to each end; peg down the line tight on the line with the stakes; mark this down with the spade; then measure the width you wish the ditch from each peg line down on that side; then put the line out of the way, and there is no further use for it before this part of the ditch is made and you are ready to lay off another length of line. A spade, a long or a short handled shovel, an axe and a mattock are the tools that are wanted for ditching. A long handled shovel is preferable to the short—they work with more ease and a hand can do more with them. The spade and shovel should be of the best kind—these are much the cheapest in the end. Ames' best shovel (steel) are the best I am acquainted with. The spade should be No. 3, of the best pattern. I am in favor of the best tools in all cases for plantation purposes, and I know from experience that there is nothing lost, notwithstanding they cost a little more at first.

I have written as much, Messrs. Editors, as I can think of on this subject, that will be of any interest to the readers of your paper.

Yours very respectfully,

JOHN FARRAR.

Atlanta, Ga., 1854.

From the Southern Planter.

Culture of Corn.

IVY CREEK, March 20, 1855.

Dear Planter:—In answer to M. R. K, Esq., of Frederick, I drop you a few lines on the culture of corn, and hope he will do me the favor to try my method on a few acres, and state the comparative result.

He plants four feet each way—*cui bono*? If the lands in Frederick cannot bring corn with less distance, they are not so fertile as they look. Let Mr. K. try four and a half feet by two, drilled, two stalks in each hill, where the land is good, and two and one alternately when not so good. Run the rows on a level, with a two horse shovel, a coulter attached; cover with a new ground coulter; work the crop with a side wiper, the best tool I have seen for the purpose, and frequently described in the Planter; (I sent C. T. Botts, Esq., a drawing of it, but they made it at right angles; cannot you give us one in the next number?) It finishes a row at two strokes, and the best crops I have made were worked but twice with the horse; the hoe following with but little to do the second time.

I am aware of the prejudice against hoeing corn, yet feel sure it is of great utility. Mr. K. can spare plowmen to do the hoe work, graze his horses, save grain, and make more crop from



less land. My horses are usually fat, and eat but very little grain after our corn is planted; we turn them out at night, get up at two or three in the morning, work them until 12 o'clock, take up another set, and work until near dusk; the plowmen usually give a few ears of corn while they are eating dinner. Two sidewipers, with four good horses, can work a fair season from 80 to 100 acres of corn. We run twice over always; some seasons require thrice; but generally the third time we run but one stroke in each row. I believe there is more corn lost, by too much work, and a want of stalks on rich land, than would build all our Rail Roads in 10 years. Rich alluvial land in Virginia has rarely over half the number of stalks it would bear to advantage. Dr. Morton is the father of this theory, it is said; if so, honour to his name. I have tried it closer and closer for many years, and now believe that No. 1 flats, well drained and plowed, free from chinch bug, can bring from 60 to 100 bushels of corn any ordinary year. We plant from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 feet by from 15 to 18 inches, two stalks to the hill; and on the best land thicker. I wish Dr. Morton would come out, and write thus to bring him.

The old idea that corn would burn up from thick planting, holds not on my flats. Mayo Cabell, Esq., made a great crop planted  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet by 6 inches; as well as I remember, it was reported for the Southern Planter.

With the best wishes for you, the planter, Mr. K. and the Farmers all over the world.

Your old friend,  
To F. G. RUFFIN, Esq.,

From the American Cotton Planter.

#### Egyptian Oats.

WASHINGTON, ADAMS CO., MISS., }  
January 31, 1855. }

DR. CLOUD—Dear Sir: In reply to your friend's enquiries relative to Egyptian Oats:—This oat is a large, plump, white grain, differing from any of some thirty and odd varieties of oats I procured from Scotland one season and grew here, and excelling them all in thrifty growth, and *resistance of frost*—what say you *anti-habitationists*, to that fact? and yield of plump, well filled grains. It was originally introduced, it is positively asserted, from *Egypt*, to this country, many years ago, perhaps forty or more. I have had them weigh, repeatedly, over 42 lbs. per streaked bushel. They require good land, of course, to yield well; and land in which lime is present. Cotton seed, however, will produce them on almost any soil.

The Egyptian oat should be sown not later than 1st September, if possible, or from middle of August to first of October. They may be grazed during *winter*; but I am doubtful of the good effect on young stock, unless the extent of oats to be grazed is large in proportion to the quantity of stock. If allowed to become

fully ripe before being cut, enough drop to seed the ground again; or if they are fed down by stock. In either case, they should be plowed in *shallow*, and peas sowed broadcast immediately after, and hoed in well. In fact, both operations should go on at once, as at that season we often lack rain, and the ground, when newly turned up, would have moisture enough to sprout the pea. By the time the peas are eaten down, there will be a fine stand of oats, to which the pea vine will serve as a fine manuring *a la Gurney*. I have seen this process carried on through three years in the same field—self-sowed oats again followed by self-sowed Tory peas, and so on. The soil was greatly improved, so that the crop of corn which followed was a superb one. The peas and oats were eaten off by stock, however, each time. The first sowing of peas may be drilled and tended, if desired. Plaster or Gypsum—(sulphate of lime) is a *specific manure* for the pea, as for all leguminous plants, and will force a noble crop upon the poorest land.

It is folly to expect a paying crop of oats of any kind on poor land unmanured. They should never be sowed in an orchard.

My Southern Rural Almanac for the current year has fallen into bad hands. I understand it is only now issued; and it is miserably printed, on poor paper, and full of errors. I send you, herewith, one with some of these corrected. If I live until spring, I shall have the No. for 1856 so far completed that its appearance in good time and in good style will be as certain as human affairs usually are.

I owe you, in common with all other commercial nursery men in the South, warm thanks for your frequent kindly notices.

The Plantation Record and Account Books are not sent out *on sale*. Book sellers can purchase them from Norman, 14 Camp street, New Orleans; or planters can receive them by mail from us. Your neighbor, A. P. Pfister, of Montgomery, has always a supply.

You did well to publish the Essay of my friend and neighbor, Dr. Jenkins. It has done and is doing much for the cause of fruit growing in the South. Success to the American Cotton Planter!

Yours truly,

THOMAS AFFLECK.

Watch carefully the clouds and the crows that you may not be caught unawares.

Always take one or more agricultural papers, for every number will give you information which will benefit you dollars.



### The Bearing Year.

MESSRS EDITORS.—I observed in your paper of Feb. 3d, some remarks, by Asa Clement in relation to the changing of the bearing years of fruit trees. It being a subject on which I have made some experiments I will relate my success and experience.

In 1840 I found that by accident a small Baldwin apple tree had its small bearing limbs eaten off by a cow in July, after the fruit growth was completed and the fruit buds formed; I trimmed off all the bruised branches and buds excepting those that were to make wood the ensuing year. In a short time new shoots started out that would have produced wood for 1841, but no bearing buds were formed. In 1841 the new limbs formed fruit buds but did not blossom although it was the bearing year for the tree.

In 1842 those branches bore fine fruit while the remainder of the tree was in foliage. This induced me to try several other trees of different kinds of apples and in cases I have been able to change the bearing season of so much of a tree as I chose. I have now a Seek-no-further bearing one half in one year, and the other half the next, also the Early Harvest and several other kinds. This is a great convenience when you have only one tree of a kind; by this means a half crop can be obtained every year, and I think it is better for the purse. If your friend Clement will try this method I think he will succeed in obtaining his object.

S. A. SHURTLEFF.

### Breeding Turkeys.

Every turkey breeder is not aware of it, but it is a fact, that of either sex, one old turkey is worth two yearlings for rearing young. A turkey does not arrive at its full growth and maturity till the next fall after two years old, and of consequence, to its full strength and vigor for breeding in the best possible manner, the continual repetition of keeping young gobblers and pullets for breeding as some people do, reduce the size of their young till they arrive at scarcely half the weight they should do.

Were we to choose our birds for the best breeding, both cocks and hens should not be less than three years old then the cock and should be from a different breed from the hens. We think turkeys bear breeding from close affinities less successfully than any other fowl, at least we have found it so—and we would never breed a cock to hens which were closely related.

Another thing, we prefer to let every hen set on her own eggs, and with the first laying of the season. She hatches them better than a barn door fowl, and is the natural and satisfactory mother. We have repeatedly set the first laying of eggs under the common hen, and turn the turkey for a second clutch of eggs, on which she sat herself. But the second chicks are apt to be weaker than the first, and so late as not to obtain a fair growth before cold weather sets in—in fact not worth half price.

The turkey *natural* bird in all his habits domesticated from a wild state, and yet retaining the constitutional propensities of its original race. Therefore the young should be reared in their

proper season, when the varieties of food to which they are partial are abundant.

Every turkey should be out of the shell by the middle of June, at the latest, which gives them full time to get a good size by "Thanks giving," and fat and juicy by Christmas.

In corroboration of our remarks, there were turkeys at the late Poultry Show at the American Museum, in this city, which weighed 30 1-2 pounds the cock and 18 the hen.—Many people suppose that the wild turkey is larger than the tame one. This is not so.—Extraordinary exceptions have been found,—when in the height of the putting season, with the wild bird at its fattest a veteran gobbler has been shot that weighed 30 pounds or more. But well bred at the same age the tame turkey is the larger bird.

The wild turkey is truly a noble bird. Standing erect upon the ground surrounded by his harem of females; proud, defiant confiding in his own strength, and prowess: his gorgeous, metallic plumage glistening in the sun, no living bird is equal to him. Even the Peacock, in all its attributes of beauty, will not rank with him. No wonder Audobon grew eloquent, grand, and enthusiastic over his description.

As to color—the natural that of the wild bird is almost to our taste. We have tried all colors. Light colored birds are apt to be less hardy and dark, and the flesh less rich in appearance.

*How He Became a Millionaire.*—Mr. McDonough, the Millionaire of New Orleans, has engraved upon his tomb a series of maxims, which he had prescribed as the rules for his guidance through life, and to which his success in business is mainly attributed. The following is a copy:

*"Rules for the Guidance of my Life, 1804.*—Remember always that labor is one of the conditions of our existence. Time is gold, throw not one minute away, but place each one to account. Do unto all men as you would be done by. Never put off till to-morrow what you can do to-day. Never bid another do what you can do yourself. Never covet what is not your own. Never think any matter so trifling as not to deserve notice. Never give out that which does not first come in. Never spend but to produce. Let the greatest order regulate the transactions of your life. Study in your course of life to do the greatest amount of good.

"Deprive yourself of nothing necessary to your comfort, but live in an honorable simplicity and frugality. Labor then to the last moment of your existence. Pursue strictly the above rules, and the Divine blessing and riches of every kind will flow upon you to your hearts content; but, first of all remember that the chief and great study of our life should be to tend, by all means in our power, to the honor and glory of our Divine Creator. John McDonough, New Orleans, March 2d, 1804. The conclusions to which I have arrived is, that without temperance, there is no health, without virtue, no order; without religion no happiness; and that the aim of our being is to live wisely, soberly and righteously."





## The Farmer and Planter.

PENDLETON, S. C.

Vol. VI., No. 5, : : : May, 1855.

### Fencing.

We are pleased to see of late that the subject of Fencing is claiming the attention of some of our brother editors with whom we exchange. We do hope for the benefit of all classes—the poor more especially—that more of them will take it up and keep it before the people who required “line upon line and precept upon precept.” to convince them of the propriety of any innovations on ancient laws and customs, even such as would operate most advantageously to themselves.

No man that has duly considered this subject in all its bearings, has any thing like a correct idea of the expense and loss of time and materials that he is subjected to in being compelled by law to fence in his whole farm to keep out his neighbors' stock, instead as should be the case, of enclosing a small portion for the purpose of securing his own, in other words, instead of fencing in his own stock. We cannot but believe that if the farmers and planters of our State can be brought duly to reflect on this subject, there will be found more advocates for a fencing *in* than for the fencing *out* present laws of our States. The poor man may not say that such a law would prove more burdensome to him than to the rich; if he does he is mistaken. Since the commencement of our paper, we have published several articles bearing on this subject. One we recollect in the 3d vol., p. 150, from the Southern Planter; in which it is clearly showed that the law as it *now* stands, operates more oppressively on the *poor* or moderately circumstanced man, owning a small farm, than on the rich one, whose possessions are almost unbounded. We do not know that we can do a better service to many of our present subscribers, than to republish this article in our next number. If our people can, by the efforts of the united press of the State, be convinced of the necessity and paramount importance to their interests of repudiating the old *dead* worm fence, and instead, turning their attention more to the rearing of *live* fences, so far as fencing may be required by a proper regulation of the law, they surely *will* pursue a different course, act in a manner that will undoubtedly result most advantageously both to themselves and to posterity. Timber is becoming more and more scarce, especially on small farms in our State yearly, causing

us already many inconveniences and disappointments, even by the derangement to an alarming extent of our former regular and productive seasons. And if we continue its destruction with that careless, reckless hand that has marked our way as heretofore, the consequences must be grievous to those that will ere long take our places.

Speaking of live fences or hedges, reminds us of a request recently made by a new subscriber. (R. H. S., of Edgefield,) to us, to re-publish an essay on Cherokee row hedges, which came out in our last (5th) volume. We at the time of receiving his request, sent him a number of our paper in which the article was published, which we trust was satisfactory to him, but if other late subscribers desire it, and will so inform us, we will re-publish it hereafter in time for the next season for setting the cuttings. We can furnish our subscribers who may desire them, with cuttings.

### Does Peas injure Corn when planted Together?

We have been asked the above question more than once, and will now say to all *they* do. It is the belief of some we know, for the reason that the pea is a tap-rooted plant, and also said to derive much of its nourishment through its broad leaves from the atmosphere; it does not rob the soil of any thing that would serve to nourish and build up the corn plant, and therefore would not injure the latter by growing on the same ground, or even in the same hill with it; but in this belief they are undoubtedly mistaken. By analysis certain constituents of soils and manures are found that serve as food in a greater or less degree for both plants in common, and hence unless there is a superabundance of such food present, one plant must, to some extent, deprive the other of what it would appropriate to itself in growing alone. Indeed they mutually rob each other so that the produce of *both* will not excel *one* if grown alone. This may be doubtless, by such as have made no experiment to prove the fact, but *we* have the proof. A neighbor, one of the neatest, most attentive and most successful farmers and planters in our District, reports to us an experiment made by his excellent manager, which fixes our former belief on this subject. In a field in which the soil was very much the same, was set apart a certain number of rows in which were planted corn alone, and then the same number of rows in which was planted a hill of peas between each hill of corn, the corn standing at the same distance as the rows in which no peas were planted. On gathering the crops the corn on the first rows measured and weighed more than the corn and peas together that grew on the other rows. We are also informed, that the corn and fodder on the first set of rows weighed more than did the corn, fodder and peas that grew on the others. The experiment conducted by a most reliable man, with the utmost care to satisfy himself on this by some mooted point, should we think so far as a single experiment will go, satisfy every one that peas *do* injure or lessen the product of corn by being grown together. Have any others of our subscribers made a similar experiment? if so, we would be pleased to hear from them.



### Well done Old Orangeburg.

Our esteemed friend, and the friend of the good cause to which our energies have for the last five years been most anxiously devoted, will, we are sure, excuse us for publishing his private letter to us enclosing a list of, and payment for twenty new subscribers. This is an example too worthy of imitation by his brother farmers and planters to be passed over in silence, and we would here remark, it is not the *first* favor from the same source, within the year. How many of our subscribers could do likewise with a little exertion, and save the *only* agricultural paper of the State. We believe, we *know* that many have exerted themselves, and with success calculated to discourage them, and more, *ourselves*. But try again friends; let this example encourage you to make another effort. Your seed has fallen on barren ground heretofore, and brought forth no fruit; but *try again*, there are rich productive spots all over our State and throughout the whole South, just such as our friend has discovered in old Orangeburg. Pitch in, it is a free fight, in which every agriculturist, mechanic, and indeed all other professions should feel a deep interest and take a hand. We with some devoted friends have toiled through the heat and burthen of the day, but we can't hold out much longer without *help*; then come in even at the eleventh hour, and you shall receive full wages with none to murmur. We have heretofore had comparatively but few subscribers from Orangeburg, but have always believed that with a few active friends she would not be found in the wake of any other district in the State. Friends we can supply a good many more back numbers of the present volume yet. Make your applications early.

ST. MATTHEWS, S. C., APRIL, 1855.

To the Editor of the *Farmer and Planter*—  
DEAR SIR:—In one of your recent numbers I saw it stated that if the friends of the *Farmer and Planter* did not exert themselves in procuring subscribers, that you would be compelled to discontinue its publication after this year for the want of proper patronage; not being willing to see the only agricultural paper published in the State go down, I felt it due to your effort, and the planting interest of the State, to do what I could to sustain the paper. I therefore, in going to the Court of our district, put a number of your paper in my pocket, believing that I could obtain a dozen or more names for you among my acquaintances; as the result of my effort, please accept twenty dollars with twenty names. Could you not get a friend in every district in the State to make a similar effort on their Court week or other public days; a very great deal could be done in that way. Except my best wishes, &c.

Very respectfully yours, J. M. DANTZLER.

P. S.—Would it be asking too much to ask you to send a paper to a very good man in rather moderate circumstances. J. M. D.

No my Dear Sir, command us freely on this point. No good man who desires it, shall want for the *Farmer and Planter* because he is not able to pay for it. The paper is sent and credited "free."—ED. F. & P.

### A Black List.

The editors of our excellent exchange, the "*Abbeville Banner*," thus discourses on our remarks about publishing a "black list" in our last number, (see extract).

"It is the editor of the *Farmer and Planter* who throws out the subjoined gentle hint. And he is right; it is not *prima facie*, but bona fide evidence of fraud in a subscriber to change his Post Office, leaving the editor to whistle for his dues. It is the lowest species of dodge; too obvious to be cunning, yet far too cunning to be honest. Publish the list, it should pass round as a specimen."

"We have an idea of publishing hereafter a black list of names of such of our subscribers as move off in our debt and give no orders to transfer to their location. We are frequently treated in this, we had almost said, dishonest manner, but whether it is so or not, we leave to others to judge. We consider it, however, *not quite* coming up to the golden rule.

Thank you, brothers LOGAN & DAVIS, for your kind offer to "back us." We think every editor or proprietor in the State, might with propriety and for his own interest, "draw his coat and roll up his sleeves" in the same cause. Brother SIMKINS has taken his position "solitary and alone." We have cut out his list and pasted it in the back of our book for reference; with all such so far as we know them, we shall in future strictly observe the "cash system." We might publish many names—some that have not paid us the first "red cent" even for our first volume—but we "*spare* them yet awhile longer;" will dig round and cultivate them, perhaps they "*may bring forth fruit*." These we do not consider of our "black list," they or many of them with the best intentions, have *only* neglected what they will admit to be their duty. Supposing that a dollar was of no great importance no how, they have neglected to send it until their accounts have run up from 1 to 6. We are making out our "black list," however, and without the hint is taken in due time, it *shall appear*.

### The Season.

We have had, for a day or two past, warm weather. But this spring has been the most remarkable season we have ever witnessed. Fifteen or twenty years ago, Laurens Court was always held the same week that it is now, the third Monday after the fourth Monday in March. In returning from that Court, we remember well that the leaves on the trees were usually as large as the hand. This spring, as we returned, the woods looked as black as winter, and seemed scarcely to have the appearance of budding! It may be that there is a screw loose somewhere in the machinery of the universe, and that the earth has got jostled out of its



true course, and is farther removed from the sun than it was twenty years ago!—*Southern Patriot*.

We don't know, Col., how this may be; but judging from the remarkably hot weather we have had from the 16th to the 19th of April, the mercury ranging from 95 to 100, we had suspected the sun and earth had got a little too near each other for the season; but if so, they have receded again, for we now (the 21) have a cold east wind, and it looks as though we might have a respectable snow before morning.

The past few days of hot weather, though very oppressive for the season, has had such effect on vegetation as may well induce our poor shadows of cattle to sing "the month of jubilee is come." The weather is yet remarkably dry; but notwithstanding, wheat looks well—so well as to, we have no doubt, alarm a certain shylock class of corn sellers, whose consciences limit not their exactions on the needy. May the seasons prove propitious, and may such *mens'* jubilee never again come on this earth.

Oats are not looking so well for want of rain. Rye is doing well, and will come in shortly to supply the place of fodder, which is scarcely to be had for love or even money, which some men would barter their souls for.

#### To Farmers.

"The *Farmer and Planter*, published at Pendleton, S. C., \$1 in advance, is a most excellent work of its kind, and should be largely supported by our Planters; yet its editor says, without more assistance, it too, must go down. Query—would it not be well for our agricultural journals to quit the South altogether, and set up in New York or some Yankee city? 'Tis distance lends enchantment to the view."

The editors of the "Abbeville Banner" will accept our thanks for the above notice of the *Farmer and Planter*. We are not quite sure that we should not do better by quitting the South or our own State altogether. "A prophet hath no honor in his own land"—or something like that we believe is the word. Well, so be it. We know there are many men in our own State that are supporting both with their money and contributions otherwise, foreign papers that seem to know us not. Whether they are Southern men with Northern principles, we know not.

#### Afflecks' Plantation Record and Account Book.

We have yet one of these books of the larger size on hand, that we would be pleased to dispose of to any of our subscribers desiring one which every planter should have. The price is \$3.000.

#### Clubs.

We again say to our subscribers, that club payments for the *Farmer and Planter* must, for each club, be made at one time. We cannot receive fractions of a dollar from any individual number of a club.

#### To Post Masters.

Gentlemen, we have asked you—we can't say how many times—when you return a paper refused at your office, to say on the envelope (not on the paper) from what office it is returned. And yet almost every one we receive comes directed to us on the cover, with no Post Office marked, and with the statement on the paper where it should not be, "refused," or "this paper not taken from the office." Consequently we continue to send the paper, not knowing where to find the name to strike off. Will some one of our subscribers at each office, call the attention of his Post Master to this request? We have found Post Masters generally, polite and attentive to our written requests to them, and consequently must presume that such as are not our subscribers, never see the notices to them through our paper.

#### Editor's Table.

OUR EXCHANGES.—To our brother editors of the news press, who have so kindly and politely noticed our exertions in the cause of agriculture, &c., we feel greatly obliged. A favorable expression of opinion from them, is calculated to do us much good, for it is only through their columns we can reach a large portion of the farmers and others that should support an agricultural paper in their own State if not out of it. Whilst on this subject we would remark that a few of our exchanges seem to think they are doing us a favor or honoring us enough by condescending to exchange with us. Such, however, in our estimation, have no claims to superiority over those above referred to, and we assure them we would not willingly intrude. All they have to do is to "strike us off" if we are burdensome.

THE CAROLINA CULTIVATOR.—We have received the 1st and 2nd numbers of this neat and creditable work. A quarto of 32 pages, published at Raleigh, N. C., at the low price of one dollar, and less to clubs. The *Cultivator* is edited by Wm. D. Cook, and takes the place of the *Farm Journal*. The editor says: "The heavy loss we have sustained from our connection with the *Farm Journal*, will we hope, present an inducement to a liberal public to patronize the undertaking." To the latter part we say amen, brother Cook; but a liberal support of an agricultural paper South, is a thing yet unheard of, and with all our exertions to deserve it, we are not, I fear, very likely to realize it.

NORTHERN FARMER.—The first number of the *Farmer*, all the way from Woodstock, Vermont, has been received and placed on our list of exchanges. The *Farmer* is adapted to the soil and climate of Vermont and New Hampshire, and devoted to agriculture, literature and general intelligence. Newspaper form, published weekly by BROWN & CROSBY, at \$2 a year.

JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.—Wonder what has become of the "Journal" which we noticed in our Feb



ruary number; "published in New Orleans and Washington City; edited by J. D. B. DeBrow, as was said. We were requested to exchange at Washington City," but the Post Master informs us "No such paper is published there." "Still born" we fear.

THE HERALD OF TRUTH.—"A family newspaper, devoted to literature, the sciences, general intelligence and religion." We are not certain that we have noticed this highly deserving paper, several numbers of which have come to us. We place it on our exchange list with pleasure, and with our thanks for its favorable notices of the Farmer and Planter. It is published by WM. HICKS, Hendersonville, N. C., weekly at \$2 per annum.

ERRATA.—In our editorial remarks on the death of the late Judge DAVID JOHNSON and others, read *estima*, *ble* subscribers for "inextricable" subscribers.

Again 700 instead of "200" acres in our Huger tract offered for sale.

Some communications have come to hand too late for our present number. Shall appear in our next.

#### The Culture of Corn.

Except the barring or throwing off, and instead of which we run a subsoil plow *first* in the furrows made by ridging on the corn when planting. We have cultivated corn much in the same way as above recommended and with less labor than in any other that we have ever practiced. The land should be well prepared for the crop if cultivated successfully in this way.—ED. F. & P.

MESSRS. EDITORS—I propose, with your permission, submitting to your readers a method of *cultivating corn*, the chief merit of which (if there be any) is a saving of unnecessary work.

Premising that before this reaches the eye of planters, their corn will be in the ground, perhaps already up, I now give the *modus operandi*, viz:

1st. To put the bar of a good turning plow as near as possible to the plant and keeping deep, throw the earth *from it* till you go over the crop. This leaves a bed 8 to 10 inches wide, into which the sun will penetrate and warm the roots; if there be rain it will be readily absorbed where most needed.

2nd. Having run but one furrow, at the end of 10 or 15 days put a coulter, or bull-tongue plow in the bottom of it, keeping the horse in the furrow, pass over the entire field. This process will have loosened the earth at least *one foot* deep, slightly moulded the corn, and left the ground mellow, as far as the roots need for a fortnight more, when it will be a foot high, and ready for the

3d "running round," with the mould board to the corn, which will invert the mellow soil, and *mould it well*, going this time two furrows; about ten days later plant your peas, and break the middle out thoroughly, which, in a fair season, will give as good a crop, as the land will bear.

Of course, it is impossible to give directions for all and every kind of soils and seasons—every planter will reject *any usage* differing from his own best judgment.

I have found the foregoing to answer well, on a flat surface, clay loam, and if the suggestions benefit a brother farmer, my object will have been accomplished. Respectfully, M.

[*South. Cultivator.*

Richmond Co., Ga., March, 1855.

For the Farmer and Planter.

#### Culture of Cotton.

MR. EDITOR:—Novice published in the last number of the Farmer and Planter, an article on the cultivation of cotton, which Broomsedge endorses in full. We agree with B, that Novices' article is a capital one, but we cannot say like "the member from Burke, if I know my sentiments them are they." Novice in our judgment, plants too thickly. Three feet on good land, by 10 inches in the drill, will hardly produce "70\* matured bolls to the stalk," even of "Calhoun Cotton." Three feet and a half, by 12 to 15 inches in the drill, on good land, will make more cotton than 3 feet by 10 inches. We propose to Novice to test the matter this season—he to carefully note the yield of an acre of his best land, planted 3 feet by 10 inches, and we will note the yield of one acre of our best land, planted 3½ feet by 15 inches. Our preparation differs but little from Novices'. We prefer breaking our stubble lands for cotton with a two horse turning plow, early as we can in the fall, and deeply.

SPARROWGRASS.

Little Branch, April 16, 1855.

\*Novice said *seven* not 70. See p. 74, April No.—ED.

For the Farmer and Planter.

#### Agricultural Convention.

MR. EDITOR:—What do you propose to accomplish through an Agricultural Convention? or rather a convention of agriculturists—is the object political? or is the object strictly agricultural? We infer the former from the following sentence in Mr. Dogans' article in the April number of Farmer and Planter: "I say the subject and times cry loudly, proclaim in language not to be mistaken, (if we would take care of ourselves, or our interest, or even presume an identity as an agricultural community,) for some demonstration on the part of planters to be made, that early." If the object be political, we are not in. We are perfectly satisfied that we have had one political convention too many in South Carolina. We mean the convention of 51, in which the *resistance* and *submission* parties met, shook hands and agreed to say no more about



it, and the *Press* said amen. If the object be strictly agricultural, that is, for the planters of the State, through delegates, to meet together for the purpose of devising ways and means to promote the agricultural interests of the State, we are in, but must confess that our faith is weak in reference to effecting any good.

SPARROWGRASS.

*Little Branch, April 18, 1855.*

As we understand it is to be strictly agricultural, or for the interests of agriculture and its kindred arts. If our friend "Sparrowgrass" has "no faith," we would advise him not to "go in." "He that doubts is damned.—Ed. F. & P.

#### A new Remedy for Smut.

The two following short extracts on the subject of a remedy for Smut in wheat, and the cause of Smut, we take from the Southern Planter. We agree with the writer, that the remedy is not "exactly" new. We do not know what Virgil says about it, but we saw a man some years since, in Tennessee, scalding his wheat to prevent smut. He had a large pot of boiling water setting over some coals in the yard, in which he dipped a small basket of wheat, letting it remain but a short time, perhaps 20 to 40 seconds; when it was raised up, drained and spread on a scaffold near by. We did not enquire, not feeling much interest in Smut operations at that day; but suppose it was sown before becoming dry, as all grain should be that has been wet. The water had become quite black from the effects of Smut.

We are pleased to see that the, with us, undoubted cause of Smut, has been discovered by more persons than ourself. We were some years since, first in Cas<sup>s</sup> County, Georgia, an eye-witness to the operations of the small grey and black bugs spoken of by Mr. Eppes, which completely knocked into pie the "fungus theory with us. We must hunt up Col. Davenport's article referred to by the editor of the Planter, having passed over without noticing it in some one of the back numbers of the Planter. We published in one of our back numbers, an article or two on the cause of Smut, but it did not seem to "take well" with our readers, and as we were not disposed to force them into our belief, we dropped the subject, but if our readers will watch closely about the time the next crop of wheat is in the dough state, we think experience will make more converts.—Ed. F. & P.

"I sowed one hundred bushels of wheat last October, every grain of which was put into boiling-hot water; it is at this time the best looking wheat in this part of the country. I tried fifty bushels of very smutty wheat in the Fall of 1853, and had not one head of smutty wheat, nor fly, nor anything to injure the crop but rust. I got this hint from Virgil, so that it is not exactly new, and should it turn out well this harvest, I will give you a full account. I am afraid to holler on one experiment; but

knowing that smut proceeds from the puncture of a bug that deposits an egg which turns to a maggot, and then to a fly. I showed the worm in the smut grain to Mr. Newton and to Col. Brown, at my house. Now the boiling water will destroy all things of this sort. Let me refer you to the Agricultural Museum, published at Georgetown, D. C., in 1811.

I cannot withhold from you the pleasure I feel in seeing announced through your paper the true cause of smut in wheat. I have over and over again concluded to write you on this subject; but as my experience is not founded upon so many experiments as your correspondent, the meed of praise is certainly his due. I allude to the grub contained in the smut-ball, and that grub changing into small gray and black bugs, which may always be seen on the heads of wheat where smut is commencing.

Very respectfully, B. F. EPPES.

The above alludes to the valuable article of our friend, Col. Braxton Davenport, of Jefferson, on the cause of smut in wheat.—Ed. So. PL.

#### "Sneeze Weed"—Cattle Poisoned.

TO THE READERS OF THE SOUTHERN CULTIVATOR:

Having been informed of several well authenticated cases of disease in stock, generated by eating of the plant commonly known as "Sneeze weed," by botanists called *Halenium Autumnale*, I have thought the interests of agriculture and the cause of humanity might be advanced by drawing the attention of the observant to the fact. Have the readers of the *Cultivator* any information on the subject? If so, will they please let us have it? And if not, will they look out for it? From all I can learn the disease resembles, or perhaps is, the blind staggers. The cases reported to me have proved fatal to cows, horses and mules. Perhaps some of the cases of mysterious mortality, frequently occurring among stock, might be traced to the subtle poison of this plant. It will strike every one as worthy of investigation.

GARNETT ANDREWS.

*Washington, Ga., 1854.*

REMARKS.—Many years since in passing a "Camping ground," near a branch on the Martintown road, a few miles above Hamburg, we were informed at that place a wagoner had lost every horse composing his team, from eating Sneeze weed. The horses were stripped to wallow and water, whilst the wagoner was making his camp fire, and being anxious for something green, partook of the weed, which grew plentifully on the spot. It is no doubt a deadly poison to stock, and should be extirpated from every farm.—Ed. F. & P.

Pure water should be supplied to everything.



*A good Cement.*—I can recommend the following cement as one of the most valuable and durable which can be made for aqueducts, ditches and other similar works:

One hundred lbs. of whiting; and 15 lbs. of rosin; 18½ lbs. of brimstone, and nine lbs. tar. These ingredients must be mixed together, by fusing the brimstone and rosin first, adding the tar, and lastly the whiting. It is impervious to water, is not affected by frost, and in process of time becomes almost as hard and indestructible as stone. A cement of this kind is often required for various purposes.—*Ger. Telegraph.*

From the Southern Planter.  
**Mushrooms and Hogs.**

MR. EDITOR:—This is the first day of Spring and the song of the turtle will soon be heard in our land, and, though quite a cool morning, numbers of Blue-birds and Robin-red-breasts are chirping and frisking about amongst the apple trees. In a few months the forests will put on her glorious green mantle, and the showery spells of May will cause to spring up the poisonous mushroom, so hurtful to the Hog, and indeed, I believe, too, to the sheep, though in a less degree. It is customary with the farmers in this region, where woodland is plentiful, and especially after a good mast of acorns, to turn their hogs out in the woods in the fall, after the harvest fields are pretty well gleaned and dried up, and to permit them to remain there through the winter and spring, until the clover or harvest fields are ready for them in the summer, and consequently they lose a good many of them during the months of May and June from mushrooms.

My object in writing this piece, is to inquire of you, or some of your intelligent readers, why, when corn is given hogs, after they have eaten plentifully of mushrooms, that they, in a very short time, show signs of the effects of the poison; whereas, if no corn is given them, they rarely or never die from its effects. And I wish also to know what kind of mushroom or fungous production is so noxious, for certainly they can eat that which springs from the poplar and several other kinds with impunity. I advance the opinion that they are a *narcotic* poison, probably *acro-narcotic*, causing congestion of the brain and spinal cord, and thereby producing paralysis, to some extent, of the muscles of the legs, which is evinced by the staggering and uncertain direction in which they move, and by its *acid principle* (if it really has any,) causing irritation and congestion of the coats of the stomach, and intestines, against which the coarsely triturated or masticated particles of corn impinge, and scratch,

and excite into active inflammation which may probably in most instances cause death. The reason why there is not diarrhoea or laxity of bowels during the stage of congestion or irritation of the coats of the intestines, caused by the probable acid principle of the poison, is perhaps because the *narcotic* principle counteracts it, by a constipating tendency, like that of opium or laudanum. I hope that the introduction of this subject may elicit some positive information and a cure if there by any, for the deleterious effects of the mushroom.

Louisa, March 1.

BOMERO.

If any gentleman, especially any physician, can shed light on the above subject, we beg him to do so.—ED. SO. PL.

*Recipe to prevent Moles, Cut Worms and Bird from destroying Seed Corn.*—Mr. John G. Turpin, of Clover Dale, near Petersburg, furnishes at our request the following recipe, which we feel no hesitation in recommending, particularly as Dr. Turpin says, that with him and those who use this compound the trouble is to thin the corn, and not to replant it, which is never necessary.

To each bushel of seed corn add one gallon of coal or gas tar; stir in the corn until it is well coated and saturated; then take three parts of wood ashes and one of fine salt—unleached ashes are best—mix them thoroughly, and roll the tarred corn in it, until each grain is well coated. Prepare no more at a time than can be planted in a day.

For the information of those who may wish to try this experiment, we will add, that we have just enquired at the gas works and find the price of gas tar to be merely nominal say 25 cents for ten gallons, exclusive of the vessel that contains it, which may be selected by the party ordering it, or his commission merchant. In this connection read the article in this number headed, "Gas Tar in Horticulture."—*Southern Planter.*

From the Northern Farmer.  
**Bots in Horses.**

MR. MINER:—I have seen recipes in your paper for the cure of bots in horses. I have tried a number of experiments with horses that had bots, and have taken about a quart of bots from a horse on one occasion, and took them home to experiment on. I found that I could fatten them on some of the remedies given. I also found that they will live 15 minutes in pure spirits of turpentine, and four minutes in aquafortis. After trying about 20 experiments I found that alum and sage tea are good remedies; but above all a strong tea made of the common green elder bark is best. The moment it surrounds them, you can hardly recognize them to be bots. My remedy is therefore as follows:

As soon as I discover that a horse has symptoms of bots, I give a half pint of warm, sweet milk, just drawn from a cow, and a half pint of



molasses. In 15 minutes after, I give a strong tea made of elder bark, and sage, to which is added a half an ounce of alum. This is given as a drench. In half an hour after, I give the horse a portion of physie. I have had a number of horses attacked with bots during the last 12 years, and have never known this remedy to fail.

H. C. GRIMMEL, M. D.

Fort des Moines, Iowa.

#### Cost of Manure.

The question should be, will a dollar's worth of manure produce more than 100 cents worth of corn beyond the expense of producing it, and beyond the natural crop of the land? We say that an extra dollar properly invested in manures, will produce an excess in crop of five dollars' worth of corn in a single year, and in many cases a much larger ratio of increase besides leaving the land worth nearly or all the cost of manure for future crops. What would be said of the merchant who should loan so much of his capital on bond and mortgage, that he had not sufficient means to keep the necessary stock of goods to supply his customers? And why should the farmer loan his money to others at eight per cent. per annum, when he could earn a profit, in addition to the interest, by using it himself? When a farmer's income is truly in excess of his farm, then he is consulting his best interest by investing his money where it may be used by others for his benefit; but until his own business is properly cared for, he is wrong to part with the means necessary to its success. So long as further additions of manure will increase the product beyond cost, the farmer should continue to increase the quantity used; and if he cannot do so by any other means, he should reduce the quantity of land tilled.—*American Cotton Planter.*

#### LIST OF PAYMENT RECEIVED.

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### Notice to Stock Raisers.

**M**Y MORGAN HORSE will stand this spring season at my plantation, 3 miles below Cambridge, at Greenwood & White Hall, and I expect to make a stand at Andersonville, and 10 or 12 miles South West of the village, of which notice will be given, the ensuing fall. Those who would wish to breed from the Morgan Stock would do well to avail themselves of the opportunity thus offered.

JAMES CRESWELL.

April, 1855.

4—tf